



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2004 AGENDA

☒ General Waiver

SUBJECT

Request by **San Lorenzo Unified School District** to waive *Education Code* (EC) Section 37202, the equity length of time requirement for kindergarten to allow a full day kindergarten program at one of the district's nine elementary schools, **Hillside Elementary School**.

Waiver Number: 9-7-2004

☒ **Action**

☐ **Consent**

RECOMMENDATION

☐ **Approval** ☒ **Approval with conditions** ☐ **Denial**

For one year with the condition that the district submit an evaluation of the program before a renewal is considered.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The State Board of Education (SBE) has approved similar waivers in the past.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

The San Lorenzo Unified School District requests a waiver of the EC Section 37202, the equity length of time requirement, in order to establish a full day kindergarten program at Hillside Elementary School, one of nine elementary schools in the district. The district seeks this waiver as a way to accomplish their goal of increasing student achievement.

Hillside Elementary School is the lowest performing school in the district with a 2003 API of 633. The district is hoping to improve the situation by offering an extended day kindergarten at Hillside Elementary. They will add sixty minutes to the school day, going from the current instructional day of 320 minutes daily to 425 minutes daily. Beginning at the kindergarten program is a way to provide a good foundation for each succeeding year of school, as studies have shown that full day kindergartens have increased reading and math skills (Full-day and Half-day Kindergarten in the United States, "Findings from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 1998-99," published by the National Center for Education Statistics). Demographically, the student body of Hillside Elementary is 43 percent Hispanic and 70 percent are participants of the Free and Reduced Price Lunch program. The school board adopted the establishment of the Early Primary Program, EC sections 8970-8974, at the July 6, 2004 meeting and will offer a developmentally appropriate program. The district has an open enrollment policy and the school site councils and the district restructuring committee discussed the full day pilot.

The district will evaluate this program throughout the year and if successful, will add more schools if space allows in the following years.

Therefore, the department recommends approval of the waiver for one year with the condition that an evaluation of the full day kindergarten program is submitted before a renewal is considered.

Authority for Waiver: *Education Code* (EC) Section 33050

Period of request: August 30, 2004 to June 16, 2005

Local board approval date(s): July 6, 2004

Public hearing held on date(s): July 6, 2004

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on date(s): May 16, 2004

Name of bargaining unit/representative(s) consulted: John Kelly, Betty Riback

Position of bargaining unit(s) (choose only one):

☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Oppose

Comments (if appropriate): sideletter to the teacher contract written and agreed upon on May 16, 2004

Public hearing advertised by (choose one or more):

☐ posting in a newspaper ☐ posting at each school ☒ other (specify)

Notice of public hearing publicized at local library, at school campuses, posted online as well as notices mailed to all homeowners organizations and other community groups

Advisory committee(s) consulted: School site council and district restructuring committee

Objections raised (choose one): ☒ None ☐ Objections are as follows:

Date(s) consulted: June 10, 2004 (final approval)

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

The district will absorb all costs incurred.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Action Item: Some documentation is available for web viewing. Waiver forms and other hard copy documents are available for viewing at the Waiver Office or State Board Office.